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LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to express the concern and reservations of the Government of Uganda over the language of the draft resolution establishing an international tribunal for the purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed on the territory of Rwanda and by Rwandan citizens in the neighbouring States.

In particular, the Government of Uganda objects to the language in article 1, entitled "Competence of the International Tribunal for Rwanda", article 7 entitled "Territorial and temporal jurisdiction", article 8 entitled "Concurrent jurisdiction", and article 9, paragraph 2, of the draft statute.

While the Government of Uganda supports the establishment of a tribunal to prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda, at the request of the Rwandese Government, the Ugandan Government considers that its judicial system has primary and supreme jurisdiction and competence over any crimes committed on Ugandan territory by its citizens or non-citizens, at any particular time.

The Ugandan Government would agree to language in the relevant articles that limits the jurisdiction and competence of the proposed tribunal to Rwandese territory and the territory of those member States which expressly declare acceptance of such jurisdiction.

The Government of Uganda will continue to support the efforts of the international community in ensuring that those who commit genocide and serious crimes against international law are brought to justice from wherever they may be hiding. However, the Government will refer its views on the surrender of its jurisdiction of such crimes to an international criminal tribunal/court to the ongoing debate on the establishment of such a body in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Odyek AGONA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.